



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/621,318	07/18/2003	Yoshihide Yamashiro	030876	2540
38834 7590 04/04/2008 WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP 1250 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20036				
EXAMINER SAFAIPOUR, HOUSHANG				
ART UNIT 2625		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 04/04/2008		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/621,318

Applicant(s)

YAMASHIRO ET AL.

Examiner

Houshang Safaipoor

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/86)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/08 and 3/08
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Initial Patent Application
- 6) ☒ Other: NPL

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to independent claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection necessitated by the amendment filed on December 26, 2007.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claim 1, 3, 4 and 5 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Christopher Malcolm Hall (GB 2,337,174).

Regarding claim 1, Hall discloses an image recording system, comprising:

a multiplexer (fig. 1, multiplexer 22) for selectively outputting a plurality of image signals applied from a plurality of cameras concurrently (16A-16D) (fig. 1, page 6, lines 11-19);
and

a recording apparatus (20) for recording the image signals output from said multiplexer (22) in a recording medium (fig. 1), wherein said multiplexer includes a selector for selecting each of said plurality of cameras in a time-division manner, an applier for applying at an arbitrary timing a recording request signal to the image signal output from a camera selected by said selector, and said recording apparatus includes a recorder for recording, when the recording

request signal is applied to the image signal output from said multiplexer, the image signal in said recording medium (page 6, lines 11-30 for “conventional mode” of operation and page 7 line 15 to page 8 line 14 for “alarm-recording” mode of operation. Please note that the bypass output 28 is selected during alarm condition).

Regarding claim 3, Hall discloses an image recording system according to claim 1, wherein said multiplexer further includes a recording mode information generator for generating recording mode information indicative of any one of pre-alarm recording and post-alarm recording depending upon an occurring state of an alarm (page 7 line 24 to page 8 line 11), and the recording request signal includes the recording mode information generated by said recording mode information generator (page 6, lines 11-30 for “conventional mode” of operation and page 7 line 15 to page 8 line 14 for “alarm-recording” mode of operation. Please note that the bypass output 28 is selected during alarm condition).

Regarding claim 4, Hall discloses an image recording system according to claim 3, wherein said recording medium has a pre-alarm area and a post-alarm area, and said recorder includes a detector for detecting the recording mode information from the recording request signal, a pre-alarm recorder for recording the image signal in said pre-alarm area when the recording mode information detected by said detector indicates the pre-alarm recording, and a post-alarm recorder for recording the image signal in said post-alarm area when the recording mode information detected by said detector indicates the post-alarm recording (fig. 3, page 7 line 24 to page 8 line 11).

Regarding claim 5, Hall discloses an image recording system according to claim 1, wherein said selector selects by priority a specific camera when performing post-alarm recording

(page 6, lines 11-30 for “conventional mode” of operation and page 7 line 15 to page 8 line 14 for “alarm-recording” mode of operation. Please note that the bypass output 28 is selected during alarm condition).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hall as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Charlson (US 6,008,841).

Regarding claim 2, Charlson discloses a plurality of surveillance cameras 42, 44, 46 and 48 output of which go through multiplexer 26 into video recorder at slow speed (when passenger door is closed [this condition is considered pre-alarm condition]). When the passenger door is open (alarm condition) the signal from camera 48 is transmitted to video recorder 20 through multiplexer 26 at a higher speed (col. 3 line 41 to col. 4 line 9). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use such feature in Hall's security and surveillance system to set the recording rate of the cameras for pre-alarm and alarm conditions.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Houshang Safaipoor whose telephone number is (571)272-7412. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. from 6:00am to 2:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (571)272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Houshang Safaipour/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2625
March 22, 2008